

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 241020Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8860

INFO THESSALONIKI 1644

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 3842

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, GR

SUBJECT: DRAFT CONSTITUTION ENTERS FINAL STAGES

REF: ATHENS 3793

1. PARLIAMENT APPROVED MAY 23 FINAL ARTICLES DEALING WITH DUTIES AND POWERS OF PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC WITH CONTINUING ABSTENTION OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES. ONLY ARTICLE 111 ESTABLISHING SUPREME AUTHORITY OF CONSTITUTION AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND WHICH IS NOT EXPECTED TO STIR CONTROVERSY REMAINS TO BE DELIBERATED ON MAY 26. ENTIRE CONSTITUTION THEN RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FINAL TOUCHES BEFORE PLENARY VOTING IN ABOUT TEN DAYS.

2. OPPOSITION WALK-OUT IN MID-WEEK IS BEGINNING TO BOOMERANG. WHILE OPPOSITOON LEADERS CLAIM THEIR CONTINUING ABSTENTION IS JUSTIFIED AS POLITICAL ACT PROTESTING CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT ARTICLES, GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT PROCEDURES FOR DEBATE AND APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES HAVE BEEN FAIRLY AND PRECISELY APPLIED. PUBLIC OPINION TO DEGREE NOW APPEARS TO BE SWINGING AGAINST OPPOSITION'S WALK-OUT AS CONSERVATIVE PRESS AND OTHERS URGE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES TO PLACE NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES ABOVE PARTISAN DIFFERENCES. MEANWHILE REPORTS

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CIRCULATE THAT CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF CU/NF DEPUTIES OPPOSE THE

PARTY'S DECISION TO ABSTAIN WHICH HAS PROVOKED A MINI-CRISIS
WITHIN PARTY. MAY 24 SESSION OF PARLIAMENT DEALING WITH ROUTINE
BUSINESS IS EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL DEPUTIES.
KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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